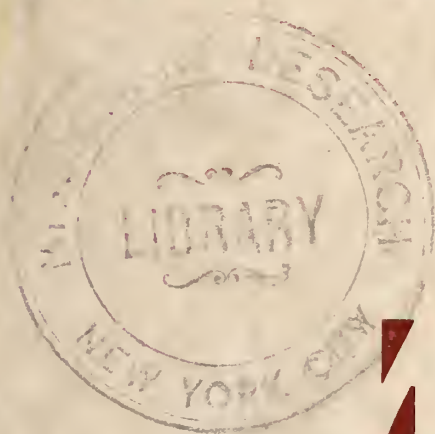


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The Power of the Gospel in Shansi Province



By Marie Stephany





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THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
IN FOREIGN LANDS

The Power of the Gospel in Shansi Province

BY MARIE STEPHANY

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and Orphanage



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Springfield, Missouri

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Marie Stephany

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL IN SHANSI PROVINCE

Four hundred thirty million people walking in darkness! 430,000,000 souls traveling the road between life and death, most of them never having heard of Him who is the Way of Life!

Small wonder the missionary stands aghast before the immensity of the task lying before! But, praise be to God, He who told His disciples to go and preach the gospel to every creature can give strength and means for the task.

These 430,000,000 live in a land of 3,998,552 square miles, greater than all Europe, sprawling gigantically from the deltas and alluvial plains of a two-thousand-mile coastline up to that great plateau known as Tibet, "the roof of the world"—varying from the luxuriant vegetation, navigable rivers and innumerable streams of the south to the dusty browns, the dry riverbeds, the scanty crops of the north—afflicted with years of famine and seasons of flood—lacking most of the conveniences of the modern world.

Sufficiently great are the natural obstacles confronting workers in China, but still these are not the difficulties that appall the missionary. It is the size of her population and the variety of her peoples that make us gasp!

The People of China

Although the Chinese themselves are vastly predominant in the 430,000,000, we must remember that they share their land with five other groups—Manchu, Mongol, Mohammedan, Tibetan, and the aboriginal tribes.

The last named dwell chiefly in the southwestern mountains, are unassimilated by the Chinese, and

cling to a measure of independence. The Manchus are losing their distinctive identity, while the Mongols have withdrawn largely to that portion known as Inner and Outer Mongolia. Communities of Moslems are found in every province, descendants of Arab merchants, soldiers, and traders who entered China over a period of many centuries. Varying degrees of religious fanaticism are found among the Moslems, but all alike hold themselves apart from inter-relationship with other groups or races.

From their mountain fastnesses, the Tibetans come forth only to trade. Their religion is the most depraved form of Buddhism extant. Thus far, Tibet



Typical Chinese funeral in Shansi. May God help us to save many from a Christless grave!

has stood with closed doors, comparatively impervious alike to culture and the gospel.

Chinese Civilization

Among peoples of the Western world to whom the words "China" and "chaos" have come to be

almost synonymous terms, it is difficult to remember that Chinese civilization is as ancient as that of Egypt, that it flourished while the peoples of Europe and America were still savage tribes. Nevertheless it is true that, in cultural and inventive genius, the Chinese led Europe by hundreds and even thousands of years.

The first newspaper in the world was published during the Tang dynasty, 618 to 907 A. D. Block printing was invented during this same period. During the time of Roman supremacy in the West, China was beyond all doubt the second most power-



Not much like modern America, you say? But these rickshas serve very well in ancient China as a mode of travel.

ful nation in the world, and her culture was not overshadowed by the culture of the Western world.

Through long periods of political disorder but cultural glory, with a spirit marked by self-sufficiency and aloofness, China showed little evidence of that inherent weakness which finally caused her downfall when opposed to Britain in the Opium War.

Religion in China

In present-day China, intellectual agnosticism has become deeply imbedded in the student class, but the vast majority of the people are bound by the superstition of Buddhism and Taoism. Confucianism likewise has a large place in the lives of China's people but is, in reality, a code of morality rather than a religion.

Lines are not sharply drawn between the three leading beliefs. The popular religion is a mixture of Taoism and Buddhism with the tenets of Confucianism overlaying all. The Buddhistic doctrine of transmigration is almost universally accepted, and its adherents depend upon works to gain salvation.

Idolatry, of course, is an accepted part of worship, and there are many gods—gods of wealth, of mercy, of medicine, of fire, of diseases—thousands of gods worshipped by millions of people! These gods are not necessarily omnipotent, or even greatly different from human beings save that they seem to have all human properties in a slightly higher degree. They may be hoodwinked by various devices, and sometimes they are even destroyed by angered devotees!

In separate religious communities are the Moslems, scattered through many provinces, somewhat less fanatical than those in the Near East, but intolerant of idolatry and thus holding aloof from those of other religions. Converts are made chiefly by inter-marriage or by adoption of Chinese children, though Islam has recently shown signs of renewed propagandist activity in extensive circulation of Moslem newspapers and a Chinese translation of the Koran.

Moses spoke to the twelve spies saying, "See the land, what it is, and the people that dwelleth therein . . ." Behold, here are the people—six races, and here is the land—twenty-eight provinces, of which one of the northernmost is—SHANSI.

A Wide Door to Shansi

In all the province of Shansi, there are only four Assembly of God missionaries, and all of these are women. Three are at my station, Miss Henrietta Tieleman and Miss Alice Stewart both having gone out with me in 1926. During this troublesome time of war we have had to close the station at the capital of Shansi, but the work has gone on in the villages, and many have come to our place for refuge.



Henrietta Tieleman venturing out in spite of cold and war to get provisions for refugees and orphans at the mission station.

We have, at the present time, fifteen or sixteen outstations, including the one in Mongolia. The Lord has marvelously protected them thus far and I believe that He will continue to do so.

We are continually endeavoring to reach new territories as the Lord enables us, and to establish

outstations with native pastors to look after them. However the native pastors need the missionary as a shepherd, to teach and instruct them, and to build them up in the Word of God and in faith.

We have two gospel tents which we pitch twice a year—that is, when we have enough native workers to help with this work. Although I have thirty-five native workers, including colporteurs and Bible women and some who give only part of their time, about thirty of them are continually active in the work. You might think these ought to be enough to fill the calls we receive but still we can answer only part of them.

There is a wide door that has been opened in Shansi province the last few years, and it came by people's seeing lives so marvelously transformed by the power of His precious Word. The Chinese are not as anxious to hear as they are to see!

Some of our native evangelists have received calls to go as missionaries to Mongolia, that great, needy field where laborers are so few in the Lord's vineyard. It is a destitute country. You can go for miles without seeing a tree, and vegetables can be raised only six weeks in the year. The Mongolians live chiefly on milk, butter and meat. A wandering people, they live in tents, and are deeply superstitious.

The Chinese who go there must learn another language. Nothing but the love of Jesus makes them leave their own homes and go to Mongolia, for, in the natural, the Chinese despise the Mongolians. Yet when a Chinese missionary came home from Mongolia and told of conditions there, the hearts of the people in my assembly were so touched that some of them gave with great sacrifice that the Mongols might have the gospel!

During the past months of war in China, the Lord has graciously moved in revival among the Shansi people. Great numbers have accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. There has been a deepening of consecration and devotion to the Lord who has saved them.



Marie Stephany and native workers

A mighty spiritual outpouring is continuing among both adults and children, and many have received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. Praise God for His blessing in the midst of such adverse conditions as prevail throughout China now!

The work in Ta Ch'ang has outgrown the old chapel, and we are now building a new one which will accommodate from eight hundred to a thousand people.



These Mongolians can stand upright only in the very center of their home. Such tents as this, easily dismantled and carried, are necessary to the nomadic lives these people live.

Which Door to Enter

I arrived in China the first time on December 12, 1916. After being there two years, I felt the time had come for me to launch out and open a station by myself. I wanted to begin in Tai Yuan Fu, but in this the Lord hindered. Then I went to Yu Tsi, a city sixty Chinese miles from Tai Yuan Fu. I had

a house selected and even had some things taken there. I had almost decided to take the place when the landlord and I couldn't agree on the rent. I took it from the Lord that it wasn't His will for me to stay in that city.

The next place I tried was Tai Yuan Hsien. Here all was settled except that one very important thing on the place did not suit me. This I took as a hindrance from the Lord.

Finally I said, "Lord, where do you want me to go?" He reminded me of my first summer vacation



Would you like a biscuit from this bakery? It probably would not seem very appetizing, but we can do many things when we must, and trust the Lord to sanctify them.

on the mountain when, looking down upon the plains and seeing hundreds of villages without one gospel light shining in their midst, I prayed that the Lord would send someone to these villages. Now He told me that I was to begin to answer this prayer myself. At first I didn't want to go to a village, but finally I said, "If you want me to go to the villages, Lord, I will do it to please you."

Venturing for God

I found a place in Huei Ren, a village about seventy-five Chinese miles from Tai Yuan Fu, and moved out there in May, 1919. The young man I was training as an evangelist and whom I had expected to take to Huei Ren as my worker left me to become an evangelist for a missionary in Tientsin. So, going to this new place, I was left all alone, not even having an evangelist. I had a colporteur, but he was at home at this time. After some weeks he joined me but, not being strong in body, he could not help a great deal.

When I went to open that station I had two hundred dollars on hand but the place was in such a dilapidated, filthy condition that it took more money to put it into suitable condition than I had. Two rooms were fixed up and out of each, two carloads of mud were removed (it was so damp). In its place I had sand brought in and brick laid on top of it. Before I realized it my money was gone and the laborers wanted pay for their work. The devil tried to make me think the Lord never called me to China or told me to come here for if He had, I would have plenty of money. I was surely glad I knew it was God's will for me to come to China and to open a station in this village.

The thought came that I could take my watch to the pawnshop and get money for it, but I soon realized that wouldn't be trusting the Lord. Then too, I had told others that pawning things is a disgrace to a Christian. I had to have money right away, so I went into my room and got down before the Lord and asked Him, "What shall I do?"

God Supplies

The Lord spoke to me, "There is money not far away from you." I thought, "Not far away! It will have to come from America, and even if it comes in today's mail, I will have to send it to Tientsin, and it will take over a week before I get a reply from the

bank. Then I must go to Tai Yuan Fu, seventy-five Chinese miles away to get the cash." Nevertheless, I got up from my knees with peace in my heart, knowing that the Lord was concerned about the money I needed.

Just at the time I was praying for the money, the Lord spoke to a missionary twenty-five Chinese miles away, and in less than two hours he had come on horseback to see me. After exchanging greetings and drinking tea, he put some silver dollars on the table. I said, "Why are you putting that money there? Are you going to loan it to me?"

"No," he replied, "I am not going to loan it to you. The Lord told me to give it to you. This is some tithe money that I owed the Lord. He spoke to me this morning telling me to bring it out to you."

When I counted it up it was twenty-five dollars, enough to meet my bill with a little left over. It was so unexpected to receive money from nearby that it seemed very wonderful to me. This answer to prayer again proved that I was in God's will in opening this station.

Another time I owed a missionary about twenty-three dollars and didn't have the money to pay it. As I wasn't sure about the amount, I asked him to tell me just how much I owed him.

"It is all paid," he said. I was amazed. "All paid! Who paid it?" "The Lord paid it," he answered. "I figured up the tithe I owed the Lord, and it was just the amount of your bill, so the Lord told me to take that to pay your bill. Your account is clear." This proved to me again that God could meet my needs in unexpected ways.

A Theatre for the Gods

The chapel in Huei Ren was located between a temple and a theatre. When they had a show all the temple doors were opened so the gods might enjoy it. Indeed such performances are held for their special benefit, since the people believe the gods

have given them the rain and sun which result in good crops, and have protected them from harm and danger.

While the show is given for the gods, the people from far and near gather together to enjoy it. Even young brides who are ordinarily not allowed out of their courtyards go to the theatre in carts, and those who can't afford to hire carts walk many miles. Benches are provided or they would take some with them for the women to sit on during the performances which generally last for several hours. Although they enjoy their music it is very distressing to us and sounds as if all the demons from the pit were let loose.



*Marie Stephany with Mr. and Mrs. Sung,
her first native workers in Huei Ren.*

"Abounding" Guests

During the intermissions I opened the chapel doors thinking it a good opportunity to witness for the Lord, but the confusion caused by the mob that came

in and filled my rooms, my yard, and the chapel was so great we had no way to witness to them. They reminded me of the frogs that got into everything in Egypt! There were people everywhere so that one didn't have enough room to turn around.

The next time I allowed only a certain number of people in and then closed the doors, but the crowd on the outside beat upon them until I had to open them. After that I gave it up as a bad job, and didn't open the doors again during the intermissions at the theatre, but held the meetings outside of the chapel.

I have often heard missionaries say that the Chinese are thievish but when this mob flooded my place I didn't lose a thing. Not only then, but during all these years in China, I haven't lost anything by allowing people to come in to look around. The Chinese like to see our rooms, as we arrange them so differently from their own, so we have large numbers of visitors all the time.

An All-Purpose Bed

I imagine one of the strangest things in a Chinese home—to us, that is—would be the k'ang, the Chinese bed. It looks like a platform built of bricks. This is hollow underneath and the heat from the little brick stove joined to the bed goes into it and warms it. With this warm, though somewhat hard, bed to sleep on, the Chinese don't need as much bedding as we do.

In the winter the same little stove that heats their bed is used to cook their food, so in one room they can cook, eat, and sleep. In the summer they let the fire go out and do their cooking elsewhere.

In the daytime they roll up their bedding and put it at one end of the k'ang, thus allowing plenty of room for the children to play and for the women to do their sewing on the bed. So the k'ang serves its purpose both day and night.

Moving Ahead

After staying in this village for two years, I was happy to know that many souls had been saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit, and three had been called to preach the gospel. At this time I felt I should move on to a new field. We found a suitable house in the village of Ta Ch'ang, where I have lived ever since, making it our headquarters.

I left the work at Huei Ren in charge of an evangelist and his wife, not realizing at the time that he didn't have the ability to shepherd the people. The Christians drifted away from the Lord and I finally had to close the station there. But praise the Lord, He gave me three native workers from there.

Learning to Lean

The colporteur improved greatly in giving out the Word. When he first began to witness for the Lord his appearance and the way he dressed was anything but desirable. He wore working clothes and had a girdle that had been made of old rags braided together. He always carried a towel on his shoulder. The towel is a great convenience in China. It is used as a wash cloth, a dish towel, a handkerchief, a girdle if it happens to be a long one, and also as a hat by wrapping it around the head.

He used to get up and talk for about five minutes and then say he had no more strength to talk. He would sit down even though the chapel were crowded with people waiting to hear more about the gospel.

One day when he had just said that, I said to him, "Don't you say that any more! The Lord is your strength, so go ahead and talk." From that time on he never made any more excuses that he didn't have any strength. I believe he realized the Lord was his strength.

The Devil Fights Hard in China—

In the summer of 1934 the lack of rain was blamed on the Christians, the heathen saying that the gods

were angry with them because some of their number had become Christians and were worshipping a foreign god (Jesus). In order to appease the wrath of their gods and drive Christianity from their midst, the village elder ordered four of our Christians to carry idols in a heathen procession. This the four men refused to do.

To think that they dared to disobey him stirred up the wrath of the village elder more than ever. He threatened to have the evangelist hung up by his



Group of Ta Ch'ang Christians

arms and beaten but an elderly gentleman, who understood law and knew that liberty was given to preach the gospel in China, kept him from carrying out his threat. However, the four men who had refused to carry the idols were fined.

The Christians bought a piece of property on which to build a chapel, but the village elder refused to write the deed for it and hindered the building of the

chapel for one year until I went to a high official to get permission to build. He also incensed the village ruffians against the Christians to such an extent that they even ruined some of the building materials.

After all this he was still determined to make them pay taxes for the upkeep of the heathen temples, which was illegal. According to the law, after they became Christians, they did not need to pay this tax. As I went to him about this, he said that many people would be tempted to take down their idols just so they would not have to pay taxes, and yet they would not have become Christians.

Of course there is such a thing as this. One day the tax gatherer went to a home where an old man said he had no idols and did not need to pay for the upkeep of the temples. The tax collector answered, "You don't look like a Christian. You still smoke, and I see you have wine bottles around. Taking your idols down is to save that money."

Just so, the Chinese know reality. They want to see the fruit of changed lives. They don't need religion; they need Christ who changes the heart and thus brings about the outward change.

—But God Wins the Battle

We pitched a tent in one village and many became interested in the gospel, the village elder among them. When it was time to take the tent down he opened up an outstation there, carrying the expenses of the work himself while I supplied them with a native worker. For a while it seemed as if the work weren't making any progress; and, as we have many calls for native workers which we can't answer, I was thinking of sending the worker to some other place.

Then the Lord suddenly began to work in a marvelous way. The village elder and others were wonderfully blessed of the Lord; and one little girl, about eight or nine years old, in receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit exhorted the people to repent of their sins in order to escape eternal dam-



Local Bible school at Ta Ch'ang, Brother Bard seated in center

nation, because Jesus is coming soon. They all got down on their knees, confessing their sins before the Lord.

A "Holy" Woman Finds God

Mrs. Liu used to be a "holy woman," as the heathen called her. They said that the gods talked through her, so she too was worshipped. It was at a tent meeting that she heard the gospel for the first time. Although she was convinced of the truth, because of fear of persecution from relatives and friends, it was seven years before she took her stand for Christ. When she did come out for the Lord, neither men nor devils could hinder her!



Two deaconesses of the church. Mrs. Liu, seated on the right, though called a "holy" woman, found the only true and holy One.

Although she never smoked drugs herself, she has a great love and compassion for drug addicts, and much patience in dealing with them. She has taken

many into her home to help them give up the habit. She often goes out to aid in the tent meetings too, and gives freely of her time to the Lord's work.

It was a great day of victory when a special meeting was held in her home to remove and burn her idols. As she threw them into the fire one by one, she said, "You have deceived me too long, but I am through with you now. From this time on I shall worship the true and living God."

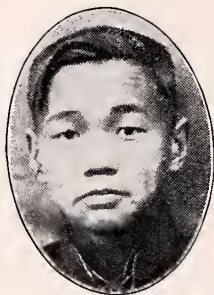
Her changed life shone in her own home so that her three daughters-in-law were won for Christ. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). This was a great victory as usually the mothers-in-law are very unkind, and sometimes even cruel to their daughters-in-law.

The Devil's Smoke

For the last fifteen years the government of Shansi has tried to stamp out opium. First the government dealt with the situation by preparing a place for the addicts to live while trying to give up the habit. They were given food and treated very kindly while they were there. This was done for a year or more but it was soon discovered that when they came out of that place they would almost immediately begin to use dope again. Then it was thought necessary to deal more severely with the situation.

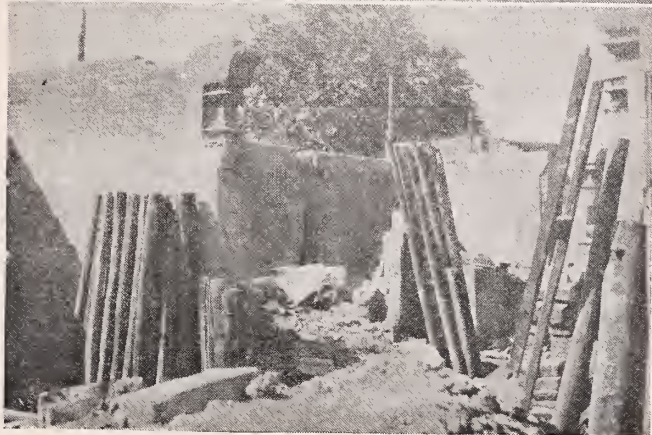
An order was sent out that everyone who sold dope was to be beheaded. Just ten miles from my place two men were beheaded and their heads hung up to warn others, but this warning did not discourage them at all. It seemed that the number only increased. Another decree was issued that everyone who smoked dope, as well as those who sold it, should be taken outside the city gate and shot down. They have been taken out by the hundreds and killed. I have seen some of these with my own eyes as they have been led forth to be shot.

Instead of decreasing, the number of dope addicts



This man, a village elder of means, heard the Word and rejected it. Eight years later, dope had robbed him of all he possessed and left him the wretched, hopeless creature shown below.





What sin will do. The picture above is the outside wall of a Chinese home. Below are the ruins of a house caused by the owner's addiction to dope.



Without God and without hope, these four dope addicts wait before the mission gate for help.

is continually increasing. Poor China needs Jesus. Only the power of the Word of God can deliver her from this misery. But, praise God, the Lord does prevail.

Dope Addicts Transformed

Mr. Ch'ang was a business man who, while at the coast on business, heard the gospel but did not



Mr. Liang Chi Hsu and Mr. Hsu Yao Kuang, both happy in the Lord who has delivered them from the devil's smoke, opium.

accept the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. Being a dope fiend he could not retain his position, so he came back home to Shansi. To his amazement, his father and mother had died, the home was broken up and everything sold as a result of their being dope fiends.

The only relative left was an uncle who was also an addict.

The young man was forced to go to the home of his wife's parents, where his wife had already gone because of poverty. His wife also was a dope fiend and her parents were on the verge of turning them out because those who use dope cannot be trusted. They steal anything they can lay their hands on in order to buy opium.



*Three young men from Ta Ch'ang,
students at Truth Bible Institute in Peking.*

This young man, in his extremity, came to the services which we held in that village twice a week. After some weeks of listening to the gospel, the Word of God found lodging in his heart and he was transformed by the power of the gospel. We missionaries saw great possibilities in this young man's life as a

worker for the Lord. Of course we do not urge anyone to preach for we want the Lord to call those whom He will. Mr. Ch'ang took a position as a bookkeeper in a Chinese hotel, but he did not hold this place very long because the only way he could keep it was to be dishonest in his figuring. This he could not do, so he prayed definitely to his new-found Saviour that He would make a way for him to leave there and obtain other work.

At this particular time a missionary who knew this young man came to the city to hold a few days of special meetings. Before the meetings closed the missionary asked this young man if he would like to go to the Bible school which was down on the coast. The young man was overjoyed because it was the desire of his heart to study the Word of God. He joined the missionary and went with him to Peking and to the Bible school.

While there he became much concerned about his wife's salvation and, as she could not travel down there alone with the baby, he came and got her. When his wife saw the change in her husband's life she also sought the Lord and found Him as her precious Saviour. She became a very sweet Christian and is a real help to her husband who is now a native pastor in the work of the Lord.

We thank God for these precious jewels but there are still thousands and millions who haven't heard the name of Jesus. Indeed the fields are white unto the harvest, and the laborers so pitifully few!

Saved for Service

Another young man, a Mr. Chao, sixteen years of age, was in business but, when he was sent out to collect money, he yielded to the devil's temptation to use some of it to buy drugs. The habit grew upon him to such an extent that he would use from ten to twelve dollars daily for drugs. He cleverly concealed his sin for some time. Found out at last, he was given a second chance because he had been so promising in

business. Unable to resist the powers of darkness, his second chance did him no good. He was finally told that his services were no longer required, and was sent home in disgrace.

As the only son, he was the idol of his mother but, although she begged him to reform, it was of no avail. She determined he was to give up the drug habit, so at one time for two solid months she never



Workers together for Jesus. Mr. Chao and his bride who were both saved after God delivered him from the dope habit.

undressed but followed him day and night, watching his every move. In the night time when the awful pangs of desire came upon him, he would wander

outside the village almost crazed by the craving for the drug, heroin, which is far worse than opium. No matter what time of day or night, no matter where he was, his poor mother was his faithful shadow. However, she couldn't keep this up continually, and the moment her vigilance relaxed he was back at his smoking again.

We pitched our tent in this village and his mother, knowing that we taught against the smoking of drugs, told her son, "No matter where you go, I will follow you. But if you go to the Gospel Tent I'll leave you alone." This being the only path of freedom left for him, he decided to go to the services to hear what it was all about.

The native workers told how the power of God is able to deliver poor fallen man from sin and its bondage, and cited cases where God by His mighty power had changed even the worst of drug fiends. This sounded very good to Mr. Chao who was at his wit's end, so he thought he would try it. In secret he prayed to God to have mercy upon him and deliver him from the curse of drugs. God heard, praise His name, and this young man of twenty-two years of age was wonderfully delivered and made a free creature in Christ Jesus after having been bound by dope for six years.

Mr. Chao is musically inclined and was always singing when he was first saved, no doubt because he was so happy for what God had done for him. As he heard more of the gospel, his hunger for the Word increased until now he is engaged wholly in the Lord's work.

While he was still an unbeliever he had become engaged to a young woman but, before his wedding day, he had a talk with this girl and her parents to see if they would be willing for her to become a Christian. The parents, seeing the marvelous change in him, gave their consent. Of course the young lady was glad also for this change in her future husband's life because she realized what it might

mean if he kept on smoking. Sometimes dope fiends sell even their wives to buy dope.

Thank the Lord, the young man lived the life and was real "salt" so that his wife became thirsty for the gospel and for Jesus Christ. It was not many months before she was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Both are now active in the Lord's service.



Saved and delivered from dope, this man and his family live to serve the Lord who liberated them. One daughter is in Bible school.

Saved and Delivered

A young man named Mr. Yieh had been a drug addict for many years. He pawned everything he possibly could and when he had nothing more of his own to pawn, he stole his mother's grain and exchanged that for drugs. Nothing she or the relatives

did could change him. When visiting in his mother-in-law's home, he saw how the Lord had wonderfully changed her who had been a drug addict for over twenty years. He went to one of our outstations where we have rooms where these dope addicts may come to live for at least a month to learn about Jesus and to give up the drug habit. Many come but some do not accept the Lord. This young man, however, was saved even before the month was up and was baptized in water.



*The younger Mr. Yieh,
native deacon at Ta Ch'ang.
He is also a fine evangelist.*

Healed and Transformed

When Mr. Yieh went home he was ill with acute indigestion as he ate more than was his custom. When a man is on dope, he eats hardly any food at all and becomes very ugly and thin with a complexion of greenish-yellow. His mother urged him several times to take opium to relieve his suffering but he refused

and would not touch it even if it meant his death because he had accepted the Lord as his Saviour and he knew he was ready to die. His mother and the rest of the family were amazed when he refused for they remembered the time when he would have stolen everything he could to buy dope. But the power of the gospel can avail even in such a hopeless case as was this boy's.

His family said he must have gotten an extra good dose of that foreign medicine if he would rather die than touch dope again! They asked him what they should do for him and he told them to send for the Christians at the station. Of course when they came they prayed for him while all the relatives stood around to see what they would do. Jesus honored their faith and raised this young man up. When he came to our station it was against the mother's wishes, but he had become such a nuisance that she was willing even if the foreign devils should run off with him.

His mother and the rest of the family would hear him pray to Jesus and talk about Jesus; and, while they did not agree with him about this foreign doctrine, they did not persecute him in any way for they saw what a radical change it had made in his life. They were exceedingly glad that he was cured of the drug habit as they had feared he would bring the whole family down to poverty. Now they realized that where nothing else had availed in curing him, this foreign doctrine had.

After he recovered from his illness, they were more amazed than ever at him. Before he was saved he would never get out of bed until about noon and never helped around the house. Now he arose early and helped with anything his hands found to do.

Used in Service

Knowing he had found a wonderful treasure in Jesus, he wanted the people in his village to hear about Him too. So he asked that I send some of my

native workers to his village to tell them the old story of the cross.

A place was rented and several workers went, but I told them I couldn't afford to pay the expenses of the work there any longer than a month. If the people in that village wanted to have the outstation there permanently, they would have to take over the financial responsibility.



Three generations of one family saved because of the faithful witness of one son. Miss Stephany is standing behind the central figure.

The Good News Spreads

Mr. Yieh's mother had only heard the gospel a few times when, one night before retiring, she knelt down and sang—

“Heavenly Father, have mercy upon me;
I want to repent of my sins just now;
Wash away all my guilty stains;
I pray Thee, Lord Jesus, have mercy upon me.”

This she sang over and over, and while singing it, the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon her and she began to weep. One of her legs which had not been bent for fourteen years was instantly healed, and when she discovered that she was healed she rejoiced more than ever. The family was excited at seeing their mother so active so they called a Bible woman. As soon as she came she knew immediately that it was the Lord's blessing upon this mother and she prayed with her. As the mother became even more blessed she was filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

She called her oldest son, who is usually the head of the house when the father is dead, and asked him if he would take down all the idols because they weren't gods. She had discovered that Jesus was her Saviour and Healer and Baptizer, and wanted her whole house to accept her new-found Lord. She asked her oldest son to gather all the idols and destroy them but he, thinking that the mother just had some kind of queer spell, took the idols and put them out of his mother's sight. He believed that when she got over the spell he could put them up again, but, thank God, she hasn't got over that spell yet!

She then told her oldest son who was afflicted with a hemorrhage and taking opium to relieve the pain that, if he would accept the Lord Jesus as his Saviour and repent, He would save him and heal him. Of course that was all foolishness to him. He just smiled it away lightly saying, "Yes, yes." But, praise God, since then he has been saved and healed and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Now he has consecrated his life to the service of the Lord and is in Bible school. The mother told him that he must take over the financial responsibility of the outstation in that village. As God had been so gracious in saving his younger brother who had been a drug fiend, and now had healed her, they must do something in return, thus giving others a chance to hear this wonderful gospel of salvation, too.

Counting Blessings

One year after the first son had been baptized in water, he had the privilege of seeing his mother, his younger sister, his brother, his sister-in-law and his nephew as well as his wife and two of their servants take the same step, acknowledging Jesus as their Saviour. He has been going on splendidly with the Lord and now has oversight of the outstation in that village. He has taken in many drug addicts there and has been the means of leading a number of them to Christ.



Mr. Chang Toa, native worker wonderfully used of God in healing ministry, and his faithful little servant.

With Signs Following

"These signs shall follow them that believe." Mark 16:17. Thank God, we have seen signs following the preaching of the gospel in China. The Lord has given the gift of healing to some of the native evan-

gelists and pastors. A native pastor who has charge of one of the outstations has prayed for hopeless cases, one a man who had been an invalid from rheumatism for five years. After he was prayed for he was able to get up and make his own living.

One woman had an issue of blood for twenty-three years and had tried all kinds of remedies but without avail. When she was prayed for she was healed by the power of God and has been well and strong ever since.

He has also prayed for several consumptives who were in the last stage of the disease, and the Lord has raised many of these. There have been those who were deaf and dumb, and others who were blind and were healed. The lame, too, have been made whole. One man who came in on a crutch was prayed for and left his crutch. I saw him two weeks after that and he walked as well as anyone.

In fact these healings have stirred the people so they keep this native pastor busy praying for the sick. Usually they don't call him until there is no more hope for them otherwise. I got him a donkey to ride but he now has a bicycle which is much quicker. Because of these many healings people were attracted to the services and the chapel had to be enlarged.

Of course this blessing is just a drop in a bucket as there are yet millions who have never heard the name of this Jesus who is able to save and heal. *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."*

Who will pray? Who will give? Who will go? If you cannot go yourself you may have a representative by supporting a native worker. We have several unsupported and are continually training more because in them lies the hope of China. Through these native workers you may gather precious jewels from China. Change your money into souls so that when you leave this world there will be souls from China to welcome you.



Young Men's Evangelistic Band of Ta Chi'ang, ready for a street meeting

The Orphanage

I must tell you a little about my orphanage. Although I am not called to this kind of work I am praying that the Lord will definitely call a missionary to take it upon her heart so that we may be able to take in more children.

Many people, through smoking dope, become too poor to raise their children. They are forced to sell their baby boys which people will buy to become their heirs; but the baby girls are very seldom wanted unless some poor family will take one and raise her as a daughter-in-law. The result is that many baby girls are drowned at birth. Some are wrapped in straw and thrown away alive as the parents are too superstitious to drown them.



Six precious jewels for His crown. The child second from the left is little "Hope."

Little "Hope"

One little baby girl such as that was thrown out just wrapped in straw. A man in a field heard the



*These little ones of Ta Ch'ang mission are reciting Scriptures
they have learned.*

baby cry. Going over he saw three dogs waiting for the baby to die, as Chinese dogs don't usually start to eat anything while it is still alive. This man took his padded garment and wrapped the baby in it. When I saw her I really didn't have much hope for her but I hired her a nurse and, after some weeks, she named the baby "Hope," meaning there was hope for her. Thank God, there was hope! She has grown up to be a beautiful little girl, six years old, who loves to recite Scripture and sing happily about Jesus.



"Suffer little children—" All these little ones of China need is the opportunity to come. Can we refuse them their chance?

Buying Babies

When the Chinese heard that I took these babies in, beggars would make arrangements with the parents before a child was born that, if it were a baby girl, it was to be given to them so that they could bring it to me. You will be wondering why the beggars should be so interested. Well, I usually gave them ten to twenty cents for their trouble! Since that seems quite a lot of money to them, they brought more babies than I was able to take in.

Now I have twenty-two—twenty girls and two boys—all of whom would have met a cruel death if I had not taken them in. The two little boys were five or six years old when I got them. Both of their mothers were dead and their fathers were dope fiends, leaving them with no one to care for them. I could have many more boys at this age but I have refused them, hoping that someone will give them food that they might be able to exist.

Someone Must Care

For these poor helpless baby girls, there is no hope. I wonder if anyone cares what becomes of these little ones. Three dollars a month will board, clothe, and educate them, and will keep them until they are old enough to make their own living. We still have a large portion of these children unsupported. As soon as support comes in for these we shall be able to take in more, thus rescuing them from a cruel death.

We have the saying of Jesus, "*Suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven*" (Matt. 19:24). Jesus said this to the disciples and He is saying it to us today that we may not hinder them by neglecting to do our part.

Workers Together

We do pray earnestly that God will raise up missionaries for this needy province of Shansi. How precious it is that, if you cannot go, you can be faithful in sending others and in praying; and, if you do this, your reward will be just as much as that of the one who has gone across the waters!

Thank the Lord that we can be workers together with Him. Let us be faithful to the end, for it is not how much we have done, but have we done what we could no matter how small it is? Our danger is in not doing that which we know we should do—"*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin*" (James 4:17).



Seventy who were saved and baptized in Shansi Province in spite of war conditions.

So, let us thank the Lord that whatsoever we do heartily as unto the Lord, He will reward us for it because He sees, not the quantity we give and do, but the motive behind it. He rewards us according to our faithfulness, and whatsoever we do we must do this side of heaven. After you leave this world you will have no more opportunity to pray for the lost—or to give to the lost—or to witness to the lost.

Pray for me that the Lord will help me to continue to be faithful to the end, so that when I see Jesus, I shall have His approving smile, for that is all that I desire.

If you are interested in this work you may send all offerings c/o Noel Perkin, Foreign Missions Department, 336 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Mo. If it is for native workers, specify it as "Workers with Marie Stephany;" and if you should like to have a share in caring for one of these little children, you may send this by stating "Stephany Orphanage" on the offering.

